

OUTLINE FOR
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRs) GENERAL ORDER
FOR
OIL FIELD DISCHARGES TO POND(S)
LIMITED THREAT TO WATER QUALITY

SCOPE OF GENERAL ORDER COVERAGE

- The General Order (GO) will apply to owners and/or operators of existing oil and gas production facilities or proposing new production facilities or expansion of existing production facilities that discharge produced wastewater to ponds and the discharge will exceed the Basin Plan's maximum salinity limits for EC (1000 μ mhos/cm), chloride (200 mg/L), and boron (1 mg/L).
- For new production facilities or expansion of existing production facilities, the discharger must submit evidence of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act in the form of a Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report.
- It is anticipated that this GO will apply to sites with poor quality produced wastewater that overlies poor quality groundwater or there is no first encountered groundwater.
 - The first encountered groundwater would not support the beneficial uses as Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN), or Agricultural Supply (AGR), or Industrial Service Supply (IND) or Industrial Process Supply (PRO).
- The discharger will go through Basin Plan amendment process to de-designate beneficial uses with supporting data.
- This GO will provide coverage for the discharge of produced wastewater to ponds and to land for dust control and construction purposes.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Dischargers seeking coverage under this GO shall file a Notice of Intent (NOI)(Equivalent to a Report of Waste Discharge). A NOI will consist of:
 - A completed Form 200, which is available at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/forms/docs/form200.pdf.
 - An application fee that will serve as the first annual fee for Dischargers who do not have waste discharge WDRs.

- A technical report that describes the wastewater generation, treatment, storage, and disposal. An Information Needs Sheet will outline the information needed.
- Upon review of the NOI, Board staff will determine if coverage under the GO is appropriate.
- Executive Officer will issue a Notice of Applicability (NOA) to authorize coverage under the GO.

GENERAL ORDER STRUCTURE

- The General Order will be structured similar to Central Valley Water Board individual WDRs. It will have sections including, Findings, Prohibitions, Discharge Specifications, Solids Disposal Specifications, Groundwater Limitations, and Provisions. The GO will also have a Monitoring and Reporting Program. These components are discussed in more detail below.

Findings

The Findings will provide background information and provide the regulatory and technical support for the remainder of the GO requirements.

Prohibitions

The following activities are proposed to be prohibited:

- Discharge of wastes to surface waters or surface water drainage courses.
- Discharge of wastes other than those described in the NOI and approved by the NOA.
- The discharge of any treatment fluids from wells that have undergone either a “well stimulation treatment”, as defined by CCR, title 14, section 1761 (including hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing, and acid matrix stimulation), or frac-packing. (Produced wastewater discharges may be authorized if well stimulation fluids are shown to be absent from the discharge.).
- Acceptance, treatment, or discharge of waste classified as ‘hazardous waste’, as defined in the CCR, title 23, section 2510 et seq.
- Treatment system bypass of untreated or partially treated waste.
- Produced wastewater overflow from pond(s).

- Creation of a condition of pollution or nuisance.
- Operation of produced wastewater ponds that could impact any municipal or domestic supply well.
- Non-emergency discharges to secondary containment structures.

Discharge Specifications

The following discharge specifications are proposed:

- The discharge flow shall not exceed the maximum design flow described in the NOI. This will be based on the reliable design treatment and disposal capacity of the facility.
- Public contact with wastes shall be precluded through such means as fence or other acceptable alternatives.
- Ponds shall be free of oil or effectively netted to preclude the entry of wildlife.
- Ponds shall not have less than two feet of freeboard unless a California-registered civil engineer certifies that less freeboard is adequate.
- Applications of produced wastewater at the facility for dust control or construction activities shall be consistent with a management plan approved by the Executive Officer.
- All applied produced wastewater for dust control and construction activities shall be fully infiltrated within 24-hours of application.

Groundwater Limitations

The following groundwater limitations are proposed:

- The discharge of produced wastewater shall not cause groundwater to contain constituents in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial.

Solids Disposal Specifications

The following specifications are proposed:

- Solids shall be removed from screens, tanks, ponds, and other treatment units as needed to ensure optimal operation and adequate storage capacity.
- Any handling and storage of solids shall not violate the groundwater limitations of the GO.
- Solids from the facility shall be managed and disposed of, including the application of road mix, in a manner consistent with a management plan approved by the Executive Officer.

Provisions

The following Provisions propose to require, in part, the discharger to:

- Comply with Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements, dated 1 March 1991.
- Comply with *Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2016-XXXX (MRP)*. The NOA will describe any authorized changes to the MRP.
- Install and certify the accuracy of an acceptable flowmeter to measure wastewater discharge flows.
- Those wanting to use produced wastewater for dust control must submit a management plan for Executive Officer approval.
- Submit a solids management plan. Those wanting to use tank bottoms for road mix shall describe how the practice will be conducted to prevent water quality impacts.
- Install and monitor a groundwater monitoring system or obtain an exclusion from groundwater monitoring from the Executive Officer.
- Follow a compliance schedule to obtain an appropriate Basin Plan amendment.

Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)

- The MRP is proposed to be structured similar to Central Valley Water Board individual MRPs. It will have sections including, General Sampling Requirements, Effluent or Wastewater Monitoring, Pond and Facility Monitoring, Groundwater, Solids Disposal Monitoring, and Reporting Requirements.